

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2017

I. Call to order

Roland Schirman called to order the non-regular meeting of the Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program at 5:30 PM on September 27, 2017. This meeting was scheduled and held to make up for missed meetings from the past months.

II. Attendance

Gregory Abramson, Kelly McLain, Tom Schirm, Don Brigham, Terry Bruegman, Marty Hall, Norm Passmore, Don Howard, Janet Howard, Roland Schirman.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes were approved as is.

IV. Agenda items

A. General Concerns and/or Issues

- i. Budget → good for next two years; all contracts signed and submitted to State Conservation District
- ii. McLain → Busy summer with VSP; seven counties have completed the program. Pointers are available for review online; state how has 90 days for initial review, allowing county work groups to reconvene if significant issues are found
- iii. Confidentiality → Individual plans can be confidential if the owner desires it. Information made public will be only at the watershed and/or county level.
- iv. McLain → Columbia County may want to look at Pacific County, as many of the basic parameters are similar. The key is “how” you will monitor—not when or what.

B. Review of Chapter 1

- i. Some parts of the document are borrowed from Whitman County; the group has already reviewed this chapter multiple occasions.
- ii. Chapter 1 approved and meeting continued to next subject item.

C. Review of Chapter 2

- i. Definition of Geologically Hazardous Area → our definition is out of other county plans; McLain notes that in this part of the state, erodible soils are almost always mentioned in the definition. The definition if from State Law, Columbia County refers to specific steepness as well. County maps show hazardous soil areas.
- ii. Additional language will be added to the plan to account for the unpredictable events that may disrupt soils and alter improvements.
- iii. Page 3 → Change “hazard” to “concern”
- iv. Page 4 → the description for the pie chart is confusing
- v. Table 3.1 → The number of acres should be for total of game and non-game species.
- vi. Table 3.2 → Delete category “No Fish Use” due to general confusion

D. Overview of Chapter 3

- i. Overview of chapter 3 is the “baseline” conditions in 2011; discussion of acreages and tables will be presented. Chapter 3 will also contain tables of acreage in ag production, along with its’ intersection of critical areas.
- ii. Review Chapter 3 prior to the next meeting

V. Adjournment

Roland Schirman adjourned the meeting at 7:00PM

Minutes submitted by: Meagan Bailey